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OXC-1529
Copy 13 of 13
4 April 1961

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: OXCART: Action Items and Significant Problem Areas

1. At the OXCART Suppliers meeting held at [] 30 March 1961, the following action items or significant problem areas emerged, some of which require follow-up attention by Project Headquarters.

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Lockheed: Mr. C. L. Johnson

a. Titanium material deliveries in some instances are from 2 - 9½ months late. Though TMC is the most reliable supplier of Titanium, the foregoing problem still exists due to: (1) TMC has insufficient facilities to handle the enormous job, (2) personnel at TMC working levels, particularly foremen, apparently do not get the word or tend to give priority to steel production due to more attractive incentive pay benefits, and (3) quality control requirements are necessarily strict and result in a high rate of rejection of materials.

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Action: CH/DB/DPD will arrange to have [] of TMC, visit Washington for a meeting with Mr. Bissell.

b. The personnel build-up in manufacturing areas is 300 people short of the predicted curve due to material shortages.

c. Tooling is abreast of manufacturing, but the corporate personnel bumping process, due to seniority, still is quite a problem and results in inefficiency and in continuous personnel training program cycles.

d. Some decisions are required to proceed with A.R. tooling and plastics.

Action: This topic was discussed at a special AR meeting.

e. The [] has been having tire problems. At the present stage of development it would be necessary to change tires under consideration after seven landings. It was suggested that the []

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Action: CH/DB/DPD will work with Colonel Geary and [] to expedite work at [] If necessary, key personnel at [] will be cleared.

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f. A-12 #1 will be shipped to [] and ground tested in November, with first flight 1 December. Mr. Johnson could not present a complete aircraft delivery schedule at this time.

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DOCUMENT NO. 116
NO CHANGE IN CLASS. ☐
☐ DECLASSIFIED
CLASS. CHANGED TO: (S) 201
NEXT REVIEW DATE:
FORM 10-2

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g. Lockheed is forwarding a letter to Headquarters requesting new radio frequencies for the flight test stage of the program.

Action: Chief, Communications Staff, DPD will handle this request in conjunction with Colonel Geary.

Pratt & Whitney - []

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a. An engine problem has emerged relating to the compressor running faster for a given air-flow. The fix, however, is well in hand technically with two approaches to the problem now under consideration. It was not known when the fix would be incorporated in engines. In any case, engines will be retrofitted.

b. Technical answers are known for the fuel control problems remaining. Work on fixes is progressing on an accelerated basis.

c. During the fuel discussion, Mr. Johnson reiterated that the vapor pressure specification requirement is a most critical one when fuel tanks are empty and must be met.

d. Progress is being made in developing a proper lubricant pour. He hoped eventually that diluents can be avoided.

e. P&W has solved most engine fabrication problems. Also, there will be no problem in meeting revised engine delivery schedules.

f. The cancellation of the [] engine program, which has carried some J-58 development costs, will have some impact on the OXCART engine development program. It is too early to report details.

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TOP SECRETPerkin-Elmer - Dr. Scott:

- a. The performance of camera test optics is better than estimated.
- b. Windows will be the limiting factor in the performance of the P&E camera system.
- c. The present V/H sensor is deemed adequate. Therefore, a back-up system approach is not warranted.
- d. The weights of camera hardware thus far received have been lower than original weight estimates.
- e. Dr. Scott requires security guidance on how to handle optics designed for OXCART which Scott feels have possible applications in other programs.

Action: OXCART Security Officer DPD will consult with Dr. Scott and the P&E Security Officer.

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Construction Program

- a. A decision is required regarding a third hangar for AF-12 use.

Action: Colonel Geary will discuss this matter with Mr. Bissell.

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- b. A decision is required regarding the installation of three GFE 1200 KVA power generators [] or, alternatively, recourse to commercial power which would require bringing in power []

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Action: A special AF power consultant, [] in coordination with Colonel Geary and [] is preparing a comparative cost paper on this topic.

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- c. The present control tower will be raised 40 feet and be used for OXCART instead of resorting to the construction of a new tower.

d. The operational readiness pad located off the South end of the runway is being designed to accomodate two rather than three aircraft. Mr. Johnson feels that plans should be made to accomodate three aircraft on the pad during the accelerated flight test program.

Action: CH/DB/DPD will amplify above action items in direct discussions with Branches and personnel concerned.

- SIGNED

JOHN PARANGOSKY
Chief, Development Branch, DPD

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DPD-DB-DD/P:JParangosky:lmw (4-4-61)

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